# An Overview of Bookshare

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There are several ways to read Bookshare books. If you prefer to listen to books, then we have text-to-speech software that reads the books aloud. This is an electronic voice, but some of our electronic voices do sound fairly human-like. Different book reader programs (reading tools) use different voices and we invite you to try several options to see which works best for you.

One major advantage to our book formats is that print can be displayed along with the audio while one is listening to the book. Many of our blind or low vision members like our books because you can enlarge the font, change the contrast, hear how words are spelled, or read the book in electronic Braille.

The type of technology you would use to read our books depends on what type of reading experience you prefer. Would you like to listen to the books, read them in print, read them in Braille, or a combination of these? Also, what device would you like to use to read our books? Do you currently prefer a computer, smartphone, tablet, or another portable device? In other words, the type of reading tool you'll choose depends on how you'd like to read the book.

# NLS Player

The NLS Player will have direct access to all Bookshare content in the same fashion as NLS content once saved onto a flash or thumb drive. To transfer books to the **NLS player**, you will need to download the books in either DAISY or MP3 audio format. You will also need to use a USB thumb drive.

To transfer the book to the NLS player, please do the following:

## DAISY Audio format

1. Download the book by selecting the **Available** link from your **My History** when the packaging process is completed.
2. Unzip the book to its own unique folder in the root (main) directory of the thumb drive.

## MP3 format

1. Download the book by selecting the **Available** or **Downloaded** link from your **My History** page on the Bookshare site.
2. Unzip the book to the **Audio+Podcasts** folder of the NLS Cartridge or Thumb drive. If this folder does not exist please create it.

# Extracting (Unzipping) Downloaded Books

## Windows Users

1. Download and save Bookshare books to a folder on your hard drive where you can easily locate them.
	1. **Note:** Firefox, Google Chrome, and Safari generally download to your computer's **Downloads** folder by default. Internet Explorer generally saves downloaded books in the last place you saved a file. Internet Explorer users may wish to check both the **Documents** and **Downloads** folder for their downloaded files.
2. Locate the downloaded zipped book.
3. **Right-click** (or press **Shift** + **F10**) the file (.zip format), then select **Extract All**. This will open the "Select a folder to extract files to" dialog box. Make sure the “Show Extracted Files When Complete” checkbox is unchecked.
4. To save the extracted book in a folder within the current location, select the **Extract** button.

## Mac Users

Depending on your browser's settings, you will either have a zipped file or book folder within your **Downloads** folder. If you have a book folder (not .zip format), it is not necessary to unzip your book.

If you do have a zip file, press **Command** + **O** or **double-click** the zipped file and it will self-extract into your **Downloads** folder. Once it self-extracts, a new folder with the book's title will be created, which will contain your book files.